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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 071885

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/31/2019  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [KV](#)  
SUBJECT: ENGAGING GULF STATES ON KOSOVO RECOGNITION

REF: STATE 41665

Classified By: EUR A/S Stuart Jones, Acting,  
for reasons 1.4(b and d)

[¶1.](#) (SBU) This is an action request for Doha, Kuwait, Muscat,  
and Sanaa. See paragraph 2.

#### Objectives

[¶2.](#) (C) Now that Jordan has joined Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and  
UAE in recognizing Kosovo, we ask that Ambassadors or DCMs  
make a high-level approach to urge remaining GCC states and  
Yemen to follow suit. Posts may, at their discretion,  
coordinate this approach with British, French, and German  
counterparts. (Kuwaiti recognition of Kosovo would be a  
welcome deliverable in advance of the Amir's upcoming visit  
to Washington.)

#### REPORTING DEADLINE

[¶3.](#) (SBU) Embassies should please report results of efforts by  
front channel cable before July 31.

#### BACKGROUND AND SUGGESTED POINTS

[¶4.](#) (U) Posts can draw from the following points:

--- Kosovo's success remains a high priority for the United  
States. Its full development as a peaceful, multiethnic,  
democratic and independent state is a critical element in the  
international community's long-standing efforts to bring  
stability to the Balkans regions.

--- Sixty-one countries from around the world have recognized  
Kosovo, including 14 OIC members; the vast majority of the  
EU, NATO and Kosovo's neighbors; and all of the G-7.

--- Kosovo formally joined the IMF and the World Bank on June  
29, having received overwhelming support among the member  
states that participated in the membership vote for both  
institutions. Thank you for your votes that made this  
possible. (N.B. Yemen, Qatar and Oman voted for Kosovo  
membership in both the IMF and World Bank votes. Kuwait did

not vote at all in IMF polling but voted &yes8 for Kosovo to join the Bank.)

--- As Kosovo's political and diplomatic situation has rapidly stabilized and strengthened, the Government of Kosovo has begun to focus intensively on economic development. At its annual meeting in May, the OIC adopted a resolution noting &the progress made towards strengthening the democracy in Kosovo, serving peace and stability in Kosovo and the whole region.8

--- The UN mission in Kosovo has significantly downsized, and the EU deployed a rule of law mission to assist the development of Kosovo,s police and judicial institutions.

--- IF RAISED: Last fall, the UNGA adopted a Serbian-sponsored resolution seeking an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the narrow question of the legality of the manner in which Kosovo declared independence a year and a half ago. As a practical matter, Kosovo's independence is irreversible. We respect the ICJ and do not seek to prejudge what its advisory opinion may say, but the fact that the ICJ process is ongoing does not prevent new recognitions. There have in fact been many recognitions of Kosovo since the question was referred, including from Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

#### POINT OF CONTACT

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15. (SBU) For a list of countries that have recognized Kosovo see the following SIPRnet website  
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/s/crs/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.display&shortcut=I9B9>. Please contact Kosovo Desk Officers Seiji Shiratori at 202-647-7729 or Marianne Toussaint at 202-647-9173 for additional information.

16. (U) Minimize considered.  
CLINTON